

UN **HABITAT** **FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE**

**Introductory Statement by Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director**

Preparations for GC26

Agenda Item 8

**HSP/CPR/63/8
Nairobi, 1 December 2016**

Agenda Item 8 Preparations for GC26

Excellencies,

I have proposed to the Members of the Governing Council a change of date of the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council from 3 - 7 April 2017 to 15 - 18 May 2017. The decision of the members of the Governing Council is awaited by the 14 December 2016 in accordance with the rules of procedures which gives members 21 days to respond to such proposals. The proposal is made in order to enable UN-Habitat to respond to the outcome of Habitat III and also prepare better for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council.

I have also recently informed Members of the Governing Council of the nomination of a new President of the current Governing Council Bureau by the Slovak Republic in line with the Rules of Procedure. Based upon responses received we expect to have a confirmation on 11 December 2016. The nominated individual is Ambassador Michael Mlynar, the Director-General for International Organizations, Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid of the Slovak Republic and the immediate former Chair of UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives. Ambassador Mlynar would serve the remainder of the term of the Presidency of the twenty-fifth session.

For the twenty-sixth session, the Bureau is expected to be under the Presidency of the Asia-pacific Group with the Rapporteur coming from Eastern Europe.

Excellencies,

In preparations towards the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council, the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work has been concentrating its discussions on the progress made in implementing the resolutions passed during the GC25 and these discussions are well advanced.

I hope that next week and there from, the Subcommittee will immediately commence the discussions on

- i. the mid-term revision of the strategic plan;
- ii. the strategic framework;
- iii. the work programme and budget;
- iv. proposed draft resolutions towards the GC26; and
- v. the Theme of the GC26.

Coming to the theme GC26, as required, I will be shortly consulting with you, through the Subcommittee, if permission is granted, following which I will advise the Bureau of the Governing Council on the proposed theme before its formally selected . Discussions at the recently concluded Habitat III Conference have been beneficial in my consideration of the theme of the GC26 which, in my view, should elevate affordable and pro-poor Housing as a core area of concern towards sustainable urbanization and which incorporates all the items considered in the New Urban Agenda.

As you may be aware, I held consultative meetings with the joint Bureau of the Governing Council and of the CPR including the Chairs of the regional groups on the sidelines of Habitat III. The advice and guidance I received from them was very helpful and I thank them for their guidance. I trust this meeting will mandate the Subcommittee of the CPR to discuss proposals for the theme as well as priority topics towards the GC26.

Finally the Agenda for the twenty- sixth session of the Governing Council was already shared with Member States in October as approved by the GC25.

I look forward to your support for a successful GC26.

Thank you Excellencies.